



Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge (Lewis Tract Unit)

Shotgun/Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Brochure

November 1 – December 31, 2015
By Special Permit Only

Welcome to the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge, along with the John H. Chafee, Block Island, Sachuest Point, and Trustum Pond National Wildlife Refuges, are part of the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex. **Specific Units of the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge are open by special permit for the regulated hunting of white-tailed deer. Be familiar with the hunt map and regulations to ensure you are hunting in an open area of the refuge.**



Unit Description

The Lewis Tract Unit is 345 acres of forested upland and Pitch Pine barrens. This unit has little understory in some areas and is dense with Mountain laurel and Rhododendron in others. **Note: Due to forest management activities during the 2015 hunting season the northern portion of the unit will be closed to all activities including hunting. Signs will be posted to identify the no hunting area. Adhering to the no hunting area is for the safety of the hunters and the forest management workers.**

Season Permits

November Season: November 1st – November 30th Permit allows hunting in accordance with the Rhode Island muzzleloader state seasons. The November permit also allows hunting with the use of bow and arrow.

December Season: December 1st – December 31st Permit allows hunting in accordance with Rhode Island shotgun state seasons. The refuge recognizes the lesser weapon rule as defined by the State of Rhode Island. The December permit also allows hunting with the use of bow and arrow.

How to Apply

Lottery applications are typically available at <http://www.ninigretpermits.com>. Lottery applications for a total of 16 hunt permits per season are processed by Kinsail Corporation. **A non-refundable \$5.00 fee will be charged per application to process each application.** Hunters also have the option of filling out a paper copy of the application and mailing it to: Kinsail Corporation, P.O. Box 7087, Arlington, VA 22207. (703) 994-4194

All Federal and State of Rhode Island hunting regulations apply.

Refuge-Specific Hunting Regulations have been identified to facilitate a safe and quality hunt that incorporates the safety and concerns of the general public and refuge neighbors.

General Hunting Regulations:

- A valid Rhode Island resident/non-resident state hunting license and refuge permit are required to hunt on the refuge along with a deer tag for the authorized season.
- Refuge hunting permits must be on person and vehicle permit must be displayed on vehicle dashboard at all times.
- **CROSSBOWS ARE PROHIBITED**
- Hunters are only authorized to hunt in the unit assigned to them on their refuge permit.
- Hunters may access the refuge one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset.
- Hunting is prohibited in areas designated as closed. All hunters are required to notify the refuge headquarters if they need to enter a closed area to retrieve game.
- **All hunters must wear fluorescent orange in accordance with state regulations.**
- Hunting and discharging of a firearm within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling is prohibited.
- Archery deer hunting is prohibited within 200 feet of an occupied dwelling.
- Hunting is prohibited within 100 feet of a State, county, or city roadway, and refuge trail
- For tracking of wounded deer, hunters are allowed until 2 ½ hours after legal sunset. This may include next-day tracking on weekends with notification of refuge staff at 401-364-9124 x42.
- Damaging trees/vegetation is prohibited to include the use of any treesteps, nails, wires, screws, or bolts. Hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven or limbs have been removed is prohibited.
- Marking (this includes but is not limited to, the use of flagging, bright eyes, tacks, and paint), cutting and/or removal of trees or vegetation is prohibited.
- The taking of wildlife other than the permitted species is prohibited.

- The use of spotlights, automotive headlights, or other artificial light for the purpose of spotting, locating, or taking any animal is prohibited.
- Deer drives or anyone taking part in any deer drive on the refuge is prohibited.
- The distribution of bait and/or hunting over bait is prohibited.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances is prohibited.
- The use of motorized or non-motorized vehicles on the refuge is prohibited.
- Overnight camping and fires are prohibited.
- Do not field dress animals in parking areas or within 100 feet of public use walking trails.
- Failure to follow regulations may result in a loss of refuge hunting privileges, seizure of property, and/or a fine.

**** Hunters with Disabilities:**

Please contact the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex at: 401-364-9124 ext.43 for information regarding access and hunting.

Closed Areas

Not all areas of the refuge are open for hunting. Please refer to the map in this brochure to ensure that you are hunting where hunting is allowed.

Roads, Trails and Surrounding Properties

Public roads and trails are located around the refuge in areas where hunting is allowed. Other outdoor enthusiasts may be using these. Please exercise caution when hunting near them. It is your responsibility to know where roads and trails are located. Also realize that some people may wander off roads and trails. Please be aware that non-hunters may not know that hunting is allowed on some parts of the refuge. Also be aware that there may be other hunters hunting on land that is used to access the refuge.

Refuge Management Activities

Refuge staff, volunteers, and contractors may be working at any time on any of the refuges during hunting season. Our management activities for wildlife and habitat management are important and will continue to be conducted during the

hunt season. We apologize if our activities disturb your hunt, but some disturbance will be unavoidable.

Refuge Boundaries

Refuge boundaries have official Refuge Boundary Signs. Please refer to the refuge maps and call the refuge headquarters if you need clarification on a refuge boundary.

Reporting Requirements

In addition to the State of Rhode Island Deer Season Kill Report Cards, each Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge Hunt permittee is required to submit an on-line Big Game Harvest Report after the season ends at <http://www.rhodeislandpermits.com>. This data will be used to help make biological/management decisions and to help gain a more accurate count of visits to the Refuge.

Law Enforcement

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by federal or state law enforcement officers.

Our wildlife is a valuable resource. Laws and regulations are intended to promote wildlife conservation. The future of hunting on the refuges requires ethical hunter behavior and compliance with regulations. You can help us by complying with these regulations, reporting unethical hunter behavior, and providing us with feedback.

For additional information on State of Rhode Island hunting regulations, please contact the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management at 401-222-6800 or www.DEM.RI.gov.

Questions about refuge regulations, permits or for additional information, please contact us at:

**Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
50 Bend Road
Charlestown, RI 02813
401-364-9124 ext.43**

Thank you. Have a safe and enjoyable hunting experience.

RIDEM 24 Hour Enforcement Hotline 401-222-3070

